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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/762,441

01/21/2004

Bruce Lessey

24739-2101G

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03/07/2005

EXAMINER

SZPERKA, MICHAEL EDWARD

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12390 EL CAMINO REAL
SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2081

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,441

Applicant(s)

LESSEY, BRUCE

Examiner

Michael Szperka

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/21/04, 1/5/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-16 are pending in the instant application.

Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements received April 21, 2004 and January 5, 2005 are acknowledged. References J, AU and BD on the April 21, 2004 form have been modified by the examiner to include the publication date of the references in question.

Applicant's preliminary amendment to the specification received May 14, 2004 is acknowledged. Applicant should update the priority information to indicate that USSN 09/149,183 is now US Patent 6,733,979.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in the Office action mailed October 4, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-10 of Applicant's Response, filed January 5, 2005, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-16 as lacking adequate written description

under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, have been fully considered and are persuasive.

The rejection of claims 1-16 has been withdrawn.

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-16 of Applicant's Response, filed January 5, 2005, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as being enabled only for detection methods that utilize antibodies have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-16 has been withdrawn.

4. Applicant's arguments, see pages 16-19 of Applicant's Response, filed January 5, 2005, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as containing incomplete method steps since no agent is recited for use in the detection method have been fully considered and are persuasive. Specifically, since methods of detecting the β_3 integrin subunit were well known in the art at the time the invention was made, Applicant is not required to recite all possible ways of detecting β_3 integrin since Applicant's invention is not the detection of β_3 integrin per se, but rather the invention is the realization that the expression of β_3 integrin on endometrium is correlated with the fertility of a female mammal. As such the rejection of claims 1-16 has been withdrawn.

Double Patenting

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 1-16 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3, 4, 14-19, and 28 of U.S. Patent No. 6,733,979. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not

patentably distinct from each other because the patented claims anticipate the claims of the instant invention.

Applicant's arguments filed January 5, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has indicated on pages 19-20 that the issue of double patenting would be deferred until such time as there is an indication of allowable subject matter in the instant application. At that time Applicant has indicated that the need for a terminal disclaimer would be reexamined and provided if needed. Filing of a terminal disclaimer would obviate this rejection.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. No claims are allowable.


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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Szperka whose telephone number is 571-272-2934. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 571-272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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February 23, 2005


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